

Abstract

Czech School of Social Policy

This thesis deals with the most famous representatives of the Czech school of social policy, their main attitudes and contributions. The thesis is composed of six main chapters. Chapter One is introductory and defines the term of “social policy” and basic goals of this thesis.

Chapter Two deals with the historical evolution of Czech social services. The analysis begins in the period of Bismarck’s Germany, which had an effect on social provisions in a lot of other states. One of them was Austria-Hungary including the Czech country. Thus, the first social laws introduced in the independent state of Czechoslovakia formed after World War One were based on the legislation of the former monarchy. But Czechoslovakia started to implement its own laws very early. Therefore, the final part of Chapter Two focuses on this social development and the establishment of the Czech Social Institute. This part also describes the most important laws in the social field.

Chapter Three characterises some of the main representatives of the First-Republic social system. It attempts to sketch their private lives through short biographies. This part of the thesis also tackles their work with the aim to introduce their opinions and ways of thinking in the social field. The very first representative mentioned at the beginning of the chapter is Albín Bráf, who was the founder of the Czech school of social policy. He is followed by the first Czechoslovak president – T. G. Masaryk, who had a huge influence on the legislation as the head of the state. The chapter also includes Josef Macek and Karel Engliš.

Chapter Four dwells on the great personality of Josef Gruber, who was one of the most important representatives of the First-Republic social policy as well as the first head of the Czech Social Institute.

Chapter Five summarizes the contributions of each mentioned person from the beginning of social awareness of the Czech community to the accomplished social legislation. Both the evolution after World War Two and the period after 1989 are described briefly as well. New social tasks have appeared since the so called Velvet Revolution.

The last chapter summarizes the main ideas of the diploma thesis and highlights the contribution of the Czech school of social policy. The main purpose of this chapter is to show that the legacy of the Czech school of social policy is topical even nowadays.